GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:529
ANSWERED ON:30.04.2008
ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILDLIFE ARTICLES
Pateriya Smt. Neeta

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the illegal trade of wild-life articles has increased over the years;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the number of such cases that have come to the notice of the Government during the last three years, State-wise; and

(c) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government to check the said illegal trade?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS(SHRI S. REGUPATHY)

(a), (b) & (c) A statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a),(b) and (c) OF THE LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO. 529 REGARDING "ILLEGAL TRADE OF WILDLIFE ARTICLES" BY SHRIMATI NEETA PATERIYA DUE FOR REPLY ON 30.04.2008.

(a) & (b) Generally illegal trade in wildlife takes place across the border.The Wildlife Crime Control Bureau of the Ministry has its regional offices at the major exit points namely Kolkata, Mumbai, Chennai and New Delhi, and cases of illegal wildlife trade detected by these offices within their jurisdiction during the last three years region-wise as given in the Annexure indicate a fluctuating trend.

(c) The steps taken by the Government to check illegal trade and poaching of Wildlife are as follows:

i. Threatened species of wildlife are included in the Schedule I of the Wildlife (Protection), Act, 1972, thereby according them the highest protection.

ii. The Wildlife (Protection) Act has been amended from time to time and made more stringent against wildlife related offences.

iii. Wildlife Crime Control Bureau has been set up for control of illegal trade in wildlife and its products.

iv. Regular training courses are conducted for other concerned departments and enforcement agencies like Customs, Para military forces etc for better appreciation of illegal wildlife trade.

v. The Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) has been empowered under the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to apprehend and prosecute wildlife offenders.

vi. Protected Areas, viz, National Parks, Sanctuaries, Conservation Reserves and Community Reserves all over the country covering the important habitats have been created as per the provisions of the Wildlife (Protection) Act, 1972 to provide better protection to wildlife, including threatened species.

vii. The State Governments have been requested to strengthen the field formations and intensify patrolling in and around the Protected Areas.

viii. Financial and technical assistance is extended to the State/UT Governments under various Centrally Sponsored Schemes, viz, 'Development of National Parks and Sanctuaries', 'Project Tiger' and 'Project Elephant' for providing better protection and conservation to wildlife.